

In the Claims:

1-35 (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A purified antibody that specifically binds a RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13.

37. (previously added) An antibody according to claim 36, which is a monoclonal antibody.

38. (currently amended) A method for preparing an antibody ~~according to claim 36~~ that binds a RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- C²
- a) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - d) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - f) a polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and
 - g) a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

39-41 (cancelled)

42. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A purified antibody that specifically binds a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- b) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- c) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- d) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and
- e) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

43. (previously added) An antibody according to claim 42 which is a monoclonal antibody.

44. (previously added) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

45. (previously added) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13.

46. (previously added) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

47. (previously added) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

48. (previously added) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim 36.

49. (previously added) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim 43.

50. (New) An antibody whose preparation comprises the method of claim 38, wherein said antibody binds a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- C²
- a) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - d) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;
 - f) a polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and

g) a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

51. (New) An antibody according to claim 50 which is a monoclonal antibody.

52. (New) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim 50.
